

Draft Revised Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Mission Statement

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.



Refuge Mission Statement

The mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System is to administer a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management, and, where appropriate, restoration of the fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans.

—*National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997*

The comprehensive conservation plan details program planning levels that are substantially greater than current budget allocations and, as such, is for strategic planning and program prioritization purposes only. This plan does not constitute a commitment for staffing increases or funding for future refuge-specific land acquisitions, construction projects, or operational and maintenance increases.

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Draft Revised Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge

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United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
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Dear Reader,

Enclosed is the Draft Revised Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge. The final version of this plan will guide management of Kodiak Refuge for the next 15 years. This draft outlines four management alternatives and presents our evaluation of the environmental consequences of each alternative.

This draft addresses three levels of management direction for Kodiak Refuge:

- Regional: Standard management direction for all Alaska refuges (Chapter 2, Sections 2.2 through 2.4), modified to meet specific management direction for Kodiak Refuge
- Refuge: Proposed management of Kodiak Refuge and how the Refuge will respond to issues (management alternatives)
- Project-Specific: Draft compatibility determinations for refuge uses (Appendix E)

Please provide comments on the Draft Plan by January 21, 2005. Comments should be specific, addressing merits of the alternatives and adequacy of the environmental analysis. We will consider your comments as we prepare the final plan. Environmental objections that could have been raised at the draft stage may be waived if not raised until after completion of the final plan.

Public meetings will be held in communities near Kodiak Refuge and in Anchorage during the public review period. Once arranged, meeting dates, times, and locations will be announced.

All public comments received, including respondent names and addresses, will be included in the planning record, which will be available for public review. If you, as an individual, wish us to withhold your name or address, state this prominently at the beginning of your comments. We will honor your request to the extent allowed by law. All comments from organizations and businesses and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses will be available for public inspection. Anonymous comments will not be considered. Comments should be mailed, e-mailed, or provided orally by January 21, 2005, to

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Public involvement is important to help us develop a good plan. We encourage you to review and comment on the draft plan. The Draft Plan is available on CD-ROM disk at from Mikel Haase, or on the Internet at <http://alaska.fws.gov/nwr/planning/plans.htm>.

Thank you for your interest. Your participation will make this a better plan.

Compatibility Determinations

Determining compatibility is a key process by which refuge managers decide what uses will be permitted on national wildlife refuges. An essential element in the process is providing the public an opportunity to provide input for the refuge manager to consider as he or she determines if a use is compatible with the purposes for which the refuge was established.

Compatibility determinations are required for all economic and public-use activities, as well as for recreational and educational facilities provided by the refuge and for refuge management economic activities. Compatibility determinations are not required for refuge management activities such as scientific studies or surveys; historic preservation activities; law enforcement activities; and maintenance of refuge management facilities, structures, and improvements. Economic uses must contribute to achieving refuge purposes and the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

We reevaluate compatibility determinations for existing wildlife-dependent recreational uses when we prepare or revise a comprehensive conservation plan, or every 15 years, whichever is sooner. We reevaluate other uses every 10 years, or sooner if conditions change or significant new information relative to the use and its effects becomes available.

As part of the review of this Draft Plan, you are invited to provide relevant information or comment on the compatibility determinations for Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge. A discussion of compatibility determinations can be found in Chapter 2, section 2.2.5. The analysis in Chapter 4 may provide a starting point on which to base your comments. The complete text of each draft compatibility determination can be found in Appendix E.

Public comment on the draft compatibility determinations will be addressed in the final determinations to be released with the final Plan. More information on the compatibility process can be found at <http://alaska.fws.gov/nwr/planning/compdeter.htm>.

Refuge Compatibility List Server

The Alaska Region Refuge List Server will notify subscribers when any refuge manager in the region initiates a compatibility determination and will provide information on how subscribers can comment. Subscribers will be notified when determinations are completed and will receive information on how to obtain copies.

To subscribe to this server, send an e-mail message with the word subscribe in the subject line to fws-akrefugeocompatibility-request@lists.fws.gov

For help subscribing or with questions regarding the Alaska Region Refuge List Server, please contact George Constantino at (907) 786-3353 (voice), (907) 786-3976 (fax), or george_constantino@fws.gov (e-mail).

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